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**SENATE MEMORIAL 16**

**46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003**

**INTRODUCED BY**

Cynthia Nava

**FOR THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**A MEMORIAL**

**EXPRESSING RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION FOR DIRECT CARE STAFF  
WHO PROVIDE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES.**

**WHEREAS, there are more than eight million Americans who  
have mental retardation or other developmental disabilities;  
and**

**WHEREAS, there are more than twenty-seven thousand New  
Mexicans who have mental retardation or other developmental  
disabilities; and**

**WHEREAS, persons with developmental disabilities of any  
age have substantial functional limitations related to a mental  
or physical impairment, including mental retardation and brain  
trauma; and**

**WHEREAS, these persons require specialized, lifelong  
individualized services and support; and**

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1           WHEREAS, for the past two decades, individuals with mental  
2 retardation or developmental disabilities and their families  
3 have increasingly expressed their desire to receive community-  
4 based and community-integrated services as an alternative to  
5 institutional care; and

6           WHEREAS, the United States supreme court, in its *Olmstead*  
7 decision, affirmed the right of these individual to receive  
8 community-based care as an alternative to institutional care;  
9 and

10           WHEREAS, the demand for community-based care is growing as  
11 states move to comply with the *Olmstead* decision and continue  
12 to move more individuals from institutions into the community;  
13 and

14           WHEREAS, the demand will continue to grow as family  
15 caregivers age, individuals with mental retardation or  
16 developmental disabilities live longer, waiting lists grow and  
17 services expand; and

18           WHEREAS, outside of families, private providers that  
19 employ direct support professionals deliver the majority of  
20 services for individuals with mental retardation or  
21 developmental disabilities; and

22           WHEREAS, direct support professionals provide a wide range  
23 of supportive services to individuals with mental retardation  
24 or other developmental disabilities on a day-to-day basis,  
25 including habilitation, health needs, personal care, hygiene,

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1 employment, transportation, recreation, housekeeping and other  
2 home-management-related supports and services so that these  
3 individuals can live and work in their communities; and

4 WHEREAS, high rates of employee vacancies and turnover  
5 rates ranging from forty to seventy-five percent annually  
6 threaten the ability of providers to achieve their core  
7 mission, which is the provision of safe and quality supports to  
8 individuals with mental retardation or other developmental  
9 disabilities;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
11 OF NEW MEXICO that recognition and appreciation be extended to  
12 New Mexico's large cadre of dedicated direct support  
13 professionals who provide quality community-based services to  
14 persons with developmental disabilities; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
16 transmitted to each identified developmental disabilities  
17 community-based care provider.